

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10, 12-13, 16-17, 30, 33-35 and new claims 36-39 are pending in this application. In this Response, Applicant has amended certain claims. In light of the Office Action, Applicant believes these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

In particular, independent claim 30 has been amended to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. In addition, new dependent claims 36-39 have been added to recite additional embodiments of the invention.

As no new matter has been added by the amendments herein, Applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments at this time.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 5-6, 8, 10, 12-13, 16-17, and 35 are allowed. In addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 27 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicant has rewritten claim 30 to include the subject matter indicated to be allowable, *i.e.*, claim 32. Claim 23, and those claims depending therefrom, have been canceled. Various dependent claims have been written to depend from allowed independent claim 35.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been amended to recite an additional embodiment of the invention, which is supported in the Specification at page 7, lines 30-31 and page 8, lines 11-12 and 16-18. In addition, claim 7 has been amended to indicate the base claim from which it depends.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of these claims is overcome. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 23-26, 29-31, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,730,665 to Shimosaka *et al.* for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In addition, claims 28 and 33 were rejected under § 103(a) as obvious over Shimosaka

in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,356 to Sullivan for the reasons provided on page 3 of the Office Action. While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's stated grounds for rejection as provided in the previous responses filed January 2, 2003, July 21, 2003, and March 16, 2004, in the interest of expediting allowance of the pending claims, Applicant has amended independent claim 30 to recite subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable and canceled independent claim 23 and those claims depending therefrom.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are overcome (or moot) in light of the amendments (and cancellations) herein. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§102 and 103 rejections.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the present amendments still do not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any remaining issues.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0096.

Respectfully submitted,
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